



## Casa Cuna children's center is well on the way to their goal with the "Yuda Nos, Yuda Nan" (Help us, Help them) Fiesta

The Casa Cuna center is about to celebrate their golden anniversary in April of 2007, and in preparation for the event they hope to complete some very necessary updating to the facility and acquire new transportation. To that end there was a fair and flea market held at the Plaza Betico Croes in Oranjestad last Sunday, and by 3:00 PM, the center's director, Charisse Hoen-Daly stated that they were well on their way to their goal of 150,000 Arubian florins (\$85,714.)

The fair offered everything imaginable, from games for the children, to reasonably priced refreshments and bargain breakfasts, lunches and dinners. The students of the EPI Hospitality Management School's Chef's Training Course were on hand to dish out local food, or visitors to the fair could choose cuisine donated by Tony Roma's Restaurant or Wong Shung Wong.

When not hunting for great buys in the wide variety of goods donated by various agencies such as Fantastic Gardens, Compra N.V., Satex N.V. La Linda, Giselle, Bon Bini Bazaar and others, attendees watched folkloric dancing or admired the collection from Aruba's Classic Car Club. Those great tail fins and Thunderbird convertibles have timeless style, which even today's teenage boys could appreciate and admire.

Volunteers were out on the streets shaking their cans, while local radio personality Goriaka Maal announced the various winning raffle tickets that sent people home with cellular phones donated by SETAR N.V., weekends for two at various hotels, and original artwork. The day at the plaza finished with large donations from various companies and organizations, such as the Kiwanis Club of Aruba, which handed over a giant size check for 4,500 florins (\$2,571.)

Casa Cuna's work is invaluable to Aruba, and a number of very successful people were Casa Cuna alumni, as was spotlighted during a recent television documentary about the center. It is home five days a week to children from infancy to seven years old from troubled homes. The Department of Social Services make the sad decision that the children need to be removed from their homes, but the center has provided an anchor of caring and normalcy that has given these children a good start and stability in their lives. Their success stories are beyond count.

Sunday's fair was a good start, but Casa Cuna relies on donations to continue their work, and more funds are required for the needed renovations. Donations can be made directly at Aruba's three major banks; Aruba Bank account 10.01.06.05, CMB account 505.050.50 and RBTT 30.38.963.